IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1-3, 6-10, 12, 17-21, 23, and 29-33 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for detecting an ~~assumed~~ octet slip in an inband signalling block in pulse code modulation, the method comprising:

searching, with a searcher, for a first error bit to identify a first error position ~~at a position bit k1~~ starting from an end of a searching block, the searching block comprising a set of bits;

counting, with a counter, a number of bit errors starting from a ~~corresponding~~ first position ~~k1~~ in a slipped block corresponding to the first error bit position, the slipped block being another set of bits where each bit is shifted relatively to a corresponding bit of the searching block; and

detecting, with a detector, octet slip by analyzing the error bits.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the searching is carried out in a ~~the chosen~~ direction ~~is~~ from a first bit to a last bit, the searching block is a signalling block and the slipped block is an adjacent block.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the ~~chosen~~ searching is carried out in a direction ~~is~~ from a last bit to a first bit, the searching block is an adjacent block and the slipped block is a signalling block.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising verifying a correctness of the signalling block before searching.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein searching and counting bit errors is performed by comparing the signalling block and the adjacent block to a sample block.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the octet slip is detected starting from or after the ~~bit k1~~ first error bit position if the number of the bit errors in the slipped block is more than one.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the octet slip is detected before the first error bit ~~k1~~ if the number of error bits starting from the first error bit ~~k1~~ position is zero or one.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising searching for a second error bit ~~k2~~ position of the searching block starting from a bit after the first error bit position.~~k1~~.

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9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to the claim 8, further comprising detecting if the bits of the slipped block starting from the second error bit ~~k2~~ <u>position</u> are correct.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method according to the claim 9, further comprising detecting that the octet slip between the <u>first and second</u> error bits ~~k1 and k2~~ <u>positions</u> and the number of bit errors is one if the bits in the slipped block starting from the second error bit ~~k2~~ <u>position</u> are correct.

11.   (Original) The method according to the claim 9, further comprising determining that the octet slip cannot be detected if the number of bit errors is more than one.

12.   (Currently Amended) A device for detecting an ~~assumed~~ octet slip in an inband signalling block in pulse code modulation comprising a slip detector, the device comprising:

a searcher configured to search <u>for</u> a first error bit <u>to identify</u> ~~at~~ a <u>first error bit</u> position ~~k1~~ starting from an end of a searching block, the searching block comprising a set of bits;

a counter configured to count a number of bit errors starting from a <u>first position</u> ~~corresponding po9sition k1~~ in a slipped block<u> corresponding to the first error bit</u>

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position, the slipped block being another set of bits where each bit is shifted relatively to a corresponding bit of the searching block; and

a detector configured to detect the octet slip by analyzing error bits.

13.   (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein if the chosen direction is from a first bit to a last bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to a signalling block and the slipped block to correspond to an adjacent block.

14.   (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein if the chosen direction is from a last bit to a first bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to an adjacent block and the slipped block to correspond to a signalling block.

15.   (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the device is configured to verify a correctness of the signalling block before searching.

16.   (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the searcher is configured to search bit error by comparing the signalling block and the adjacent block to a sample block.

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17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the detector is configured to detect the octet slip starting from or after the first error bit k1position, if the number of bit errors in the slipped block is more than one.

18. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the detector is configured to detect the octet slip before the first error bit k1 position if the number of bit errors starting from the first error bit k1 position is zero or one.

19. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein searcher is configured to search for a second error bit k2 position of the searching block starting from a bit after the first error bit k1position.

20. (Currently Amended) The device according to the claim 19, wherein the detector is configured to detect if bits of the slipped block starting from the second error bit k2 position are correct.

21. (Currently Amended) The device according to the claim 20, wherein the detector is configured to detect that the octet slip between the first and second error bits k1 and k2 positions and the error count is one if the bits starting from the second error bit k2 are correct.

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22.   (Previously Presented) The device according to the claim 21, wherein the detector is configured to determine that the octet slip cannot be detected if the number is more than one.

23.   (Currently Amended) A system for detecting an ~~assumed~~ octet slip in an inband signalling block in pulse code modulation, which system comprises:

a sender terminal configured to transmit a signal;

a receiver terminal;

an in path equipment; and

a slip detector comprising

a searcher configured to search <u>for</u> a first error bit <u>to identify</u> ~~at a position~~ ~~k1~~<u>a first error bit position</u> starting from an end of a searching block, the searching block comprising a set of bits,

a counter configured to count a number of bit errors starting from a ~~corresponding~~<u>first</u> position ~~k1~~ in a slipped block<u> corresponding to the first error bit position</u>, the slipped block being another set of bits where each bit is shifted relatively to a corresponding bit of the searching block, and

a detector configured to detect the octet slip by analyzing error bits,

wherein the slip detector is configured to detect assumed octet slip of the signal transmitted from the sender terminal through the in path equipment to the receiver terminal.

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24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23, wherein if the chosen direction is from a first bit to the last bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to a signalling block and the slipped block to correspond to an adjacent block.

26.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23, wherein if the chosen direction is from a last bit to a first bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to an adjacent block and the slipped block to correspond to a signalling block.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein the device is configured to verify a correctness of the signalling block before searching.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the searcher is configured to search bit error by comparing the signalling block and the adjacent block to a sample block.

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29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the detector is arranged to detect the octet slip starting from or after the <u>first error</u> bit ~~k1~~position, if the number of the bit errors in the slipped block is more than one.

30. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the detector is configured to detect the octet slip before the <u>first error</u> bit ~~k1~~position if the number of bit errors starting from the <u>first error</u> bit ~~k1~~position is zero or one.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 29, wherein the searcher is configured to search <u>for</u> a second error bit ~~k2~~position of the searching block starting from a bit after the first error bit <u>position.</u>~~k1.~~

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 31, wherein the detector is configured to detect if the bits of the slipped block starting from the second error bit ~~k2~~position are correct.

33. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 32, wherein the detector is configured to detect that the octet slip between the <u>first and second</u> error bits ~~k1 and k2~~ positions and the number of bit errors is one if the bits starting from the <u>second</u> error bit ~~k2~~position are correct.

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34. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 33, wherein the detector is configured to determine that the octet slip cannot be detected if the number is more than one.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23 wherein the slip detector is configured into the path equipment.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to the claim 23, wherein the slip detector is configured into the receiver terminal.

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